

alone, around 40,000 requests have been allowed to back up. The resulting time delays have denied veterans across the Nation the medals and honors they have rightfully earned.

DOD claims that it doesn't have the people or resources to speed up the process. But it wouldn't take much to make a dent in the problem. For example, the Navy Liaison Office was averaging a relatively quick turnaround time of only four to five months when it had only five personnel working cases. Now that it has only three people in the office, it is having a hard time keeping up with the crush of requests. DOD must make putting more resources towards this problem a priority. However, it seems like the same old story—our government forgets the sacrifices servicemen and women have made as soon as they leave military duty. We can do better.

My legislation, which is the companion bill to Senator HARKIN's legislation in the Senate, would direct the Secretary of Defense to establish and carry out a plan to make available the funds and resources necessary to eliminate the backlog in decoration requests. The bill would also direct that funding and resources should not come at the expense of other personnel service and support activities within DOD. It is a common sense approach which will allow DOD to be involved in solving the situation while structuring a quick and direct solution to the problem.

I am proud that the legislation enjoys the support of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). I hope that it is something Congress can quickly act on in the near future. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in sponsoring this legislation which would follow through on our commitment to ensure that the service of our fighting men and women is properly honored and not forgotten.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. ERNIE LEWIN
AND MR. RALPH FREEMAN

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to two very special Long Island citizens, Mr. Ernie Lewin and Mr. Ralph Freeman. These two citizens recently received well-deserved honor for their service to Long Island's community. Throughout their career as farmers on Long Island, both individuals have greatly benefited their fellow farmers and their less fortunate neighbors.

Mr. Lewin received the Amherst Davis Memorial Farmer Citizen Award at the Long Island Farm Bureau's annual awards dinner dance, held on Saturday, March 27. This honor recognizes the many sacrifices that Mr. Lewin has made over his career to aid the less fortunate. His farm in Calverton, Long Island regularly donates surplus produce to local soup kitchens and churches. He has also helped to set up a program where people can pick their own produce and operate their own farm stand. This program has enabled many people to get first hand experience as an en-

trepreneur and learn the responsibility of running a company.

Lewin has served for 45 years with the Grange League Federation and is a member of the National Potato Council, Potato Board, Potato Advisory Committee of Cornell Cooperative Extension, Farm Credit Board and the advisory board for Cornell University's research lab. Mr. Lewin is also involved in many notable community organizations, such as the Lions Club in which Lewin has had a 25-year membership. Lewin is also a proud trustee of the Baiting Hollow Congregational Church.

Mr. Freeman was the 1999 recipient of the Long Island Farm Bureau's Citizen Award for his contributions to the community. This honor is a true testament to his work in helping his fellow farmers. Mr. Freeman has worked as an Cornell Cooperative Extension educator to directly help the farmers in his community. His role as educator is to instruct owners and managers of commercial production and marketing firms in greenhouses and related industries. His efforts have helped local businesses increase their profit and productivity.

Mr. Freeman is also a widely published author and a frequent speaker. He is known nationally and internationally for his expertise in floriculture. In the community, Mr. Freeman is an active member of the Eastport Bible Church and Gideon's International.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in honoring the efforts of these two very special Long Islanders who have devoted their lives to help others. I only hope that we learn from these two individuals and that they continue their fine work in our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROGER F. WICKER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 51, on House Congressional Resolution 774, Women's Business Center Amendments Act of 1999, I was unavailable to vote because I was returning from a bipartisan Congressional Delegation trip to Russia. The objectives of this four-day trip included meetings with the Russian Duma and other governmental officials concerning the missile defense threat as outlined in the report of the Rumsfeld Commission. Our delegation was joined in Moscow by former Secretary Don Rumsfeld and two members of his commission, Mr. Jim Woolsey and Mr. William Schneider, Jr.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

IN HONOR OF THE NEW YORK UNIVERSITY CHILD STUDY CENTER

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the NYU Child

Study Center, a unique multi-specialty program at New York University School of Medicine.

The NYU Child Study Center is an innovative program dedicated to offering complete child and adolescent psychiatric care that is fully integrated with scientific research and education.

The Center's research considerably advances the understanding of the causes and treatments of child mental disorders. In addition, the Center collaborates with public, parochial and private school systems to provide invaluable preventive resources to families.

The NYU Child Study Center is an indispensable resource for parents, educators and child health and mental health professionals both in New York and across the United States.

The premier clinicians at the NYU Center implement the knowledge gained from research and translate it into care that incorporates the most up-to-date information about the causes, symptoms and treatments of mental disorders.

Some of the programs in the Center's clinical care area include: Furman Diagnostic Service to assess treatment and long-term follow up; NYU Summer Program for Kids with ADHD; Young Adult Inpatient Program; Port Washington Alternative Learning Program for at-risk adolescents; Family Studies Program to prevent future problems in couples and families at risk; Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program to promote healthy relationships; Unique Minds, to assist families of learning disabled children; and NYU Child Study Center East for children with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and learning disorders.

The Center's other main missions include advanced training for mental health professionals; research in areas such as pediatric psychopharmacology, children at risk, attention deficit hyperactivity and related disorders, and child and adolescent anxiety disorders; and educational outreach and prevention for parents, educators, pediatricians and other mental health professionals.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to bring to your attention the NYU Child Study Center. The Center provides an invaluable service to New York's children and their families, and for children across the country. It is an honor to have such an important institution located in my district.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN DALE O.
SNODGRASS

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to recognize a truly outstanding naval officer, Captain Dale O. Snodgrass, U.S. Navy. Captain Snodgrass will soon be completing his assignment as the Director of the Navy Liaison Office to the House of Representatives, which will also bring to a close a long and distinguished career in the U.S. Navy. It is a pleasure for me to recognize just a few of his many outstanding achievements.